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THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 28, 1858.

Railroad Appropriations.

We learn from Richmond, that the committee on roads of the Senate have agreed to report a bill recommending an appropriation of two and a half millions of dollars to the leading lines of Railroads in the state, as follows:—to the Covington and Ohio Railroad, \$800,000, Orange and Alexandria \$300,000, Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire \$300,000, Manassas Gap \$200,000, Norfolk and Petersburg \$250,000, York River \$250,000, Richmond and Danville \$200,000, and Virginia Central \$200,000.

The "tangled web" of Kansas affairs—the various conflicting accounts from that territory—the agitation on the subject continually kept up through the country by politicians—the sectional strife created—all, everything, conspire to induce an anxious wish, on the part of the public, that the "vexed question" should be settled, and that speedily. It seems as if the truth could never be arrived at, as to the facts of the case. One day we have accounts representing a certain condition of affairs, and the next an entirely different statement. But, after all, much of the controversy and discussion arise from a failure to look at the matter practically, and without reference to parties or politics. If the present situation of things be continued, to what will it lead? Everybody now is impatient for the President's Message, transmitting the Lecompton Constitution, and for action on the part of Congress. There has been enough of talking. Let us add to these few remarks, the following from the Union, which is headed the "Truth coming out," and which contains, we are inclined to think, more of "Truth," than two-thirds of the News we receive by telegraph from Kansas:

"We have always been of the opinion that there was more knavery than honesty in the agitation of the slavery question, and particularly that branch of it which related to Kansas. That question has been seized upon by designing politicians as a means by which they can get into and keep themselves in power, and not through any love or respect for principle. All the recent developments on this subject have been calculated to strengthen our convictions in this respect; and we give below an extract from the Kansas Ledger, a free-State paper, which, it seems to us, ought to convince all who have ever doubted as to the real cause of the controversy. The Ledger says:

"Niggers are not the great bone of contention in Kansas, and those who cry out most lustily for 'nigger,' or no 'nigger,' have not money enough, as a general thing, to buy a 'plug of tobacco with.' The real bone of contention is power and the spoils; and the poor nigger is made to bend and bow to suit the purposes of the political demagogues, that they may ride into power and obtain some of the spoils—and that's all. The free State party nor the pro-slavery party of Kansas care nothing about the moral condition of the niggers, but they must have a text to preach from, and the 'poor nigger' has been preached in all his aspects throughout our land."

And upon the admission of Kansas into the Union under the Lecompton Constitution, the same paper says:

"Let Congress attend to their own business, and let us attend to ours. We have something more to accomplish besides the admission of Kansas into the Union. We want railroads, telegraphs, churches, common schools, and a host of other things of minor importance; but, paramount to all these, we want peace."

And again:

"They [the people of Kansas] are heartily sick and tired of this infernal nigger agitation; they have had enough of it; it injures their business, blazes their prospects, and keeps up a continual strife. Let Kansas be admitted into the Union somehow or other, and with some kind of a constitution, that we may have peace."

The Richmond South is making strong opposition to what is called the Yrisari treaty concluded by the Administration and the Minister from Nicaragua, for the settlement of Central American affairs. It declares that the aim of the treaty "is the overthrow of Gen. Walker, in order that the preponderance of Southern sentiment on Southern soil shall yield to the preponderance of Northern sentiment, as developed through Aid Societies and as propagated by such wrong-doings as the Nicaragua Transit Company monopolies." We add some general remarks of The South, following its comments upon this treaty:

"We are willing to believe, nay, we are disposed to believe, that Mr. Buchanan had not sufficient time, from the very nature of his engagements, to examine the subject with the care which it demanded; and we are sure that he never imagined that cliques, having ulterior purposes of a selfish nature to accomplish, were turning his misplaced credulity to their own account. There are those, it is true, in public life who assert that the President is acting with duplicity to the South. We are not yet prepared to think so, nor will we change this opinion without good and sufficient reason. We should regard him as the meanest of mortals—if he could abandon us if he could falsify his pledges, when more than ever in the history of the nation we have so much need of that Executive fidelity in which we so confidently reposed our trust when his nomination was made at Cincinnati. If we are betrayed, it will be, alas! soon enough for us to know it when some overt act shall be committed that will reveal the awful fact. Until then, we shall continue to attribute whatever mistakes, however grave, which the Administration may make, as errors of the head, not of the heart, so far at least, as the Executive is concerned. But our anxiety is to examine the treaty in its animadversions upon the incapacity and inequity of those who are its assistants or who have themselves been its victims; and we are ready to see that the long official career of Mr. Buchanan may terminate in a blaze of glory, and no one will labor more diligently to secure that consummation. We would shield him if we had the power, against a blot on his Presidential record; but while we are pre-

pared to contribute to such a result, we shall lose no occasion to sound the tocsin when we behold impending, or even distant danger, proceeding from any of his measures. This is an age of terrific venality, and come what will we will not withhold the lash from the world. Things cannot remain as they are in and about the Capitol, and if they grow worse there will not be a ray of hope for the South."

The New Bedford Shipping List publishes its annual review of the Whale fishery for 1857. The effect of the financial pressure has been disastrous to the whaling interests, leading to a diminished consumption, and a reduction of prices below a profitable margin. The importation of sperm oil is 2,500 bbls. less than in the preceding year, and that of whalebone 534,000 lbs. The imports of whale oil are 33,000 bbls. more than in 1856. This arises chiefly from the shipments made at the Sandwich Islands by vessels which continue their voyages, and therefore a diminution in the aggregate amount for the coming year is expected of from 75,000 to 100,000 bbls. of whale oil, and a corresponding decrease of bone. The number of vessels employed in the whale fishery is 654; of which 567 are ships and barks, 18, 49 and 49 schooners, with a tonnage of 203,148 tons. The number of whalers owned in New Bedford is 324 ships and barks, whose tonnage is 110,267, and the total in the collection district of New Bedford is 138,773 tons. Of the whole number of vessels employed in the whale fishery from the United States, there are owned in Massachusetts 481 ships and barks, 13 barks, and 35 schooners—tonnage 104,446.

The fact that the CHINESE CANE is a sugar-producing plant, has been definitely settled, according to observations and practical trials, made by Joseph S. Loring, of Philadelphia, whose life-long business has been sugar-refining. A detailed account of these trials, made up from his daily journal, has been published by Mr. L., in a pamphlet. He avers that his results, as published, were actually produced by himself, with no object in view but the truth, and a desire to contribute whatever useful information he could towards the solution of this interesting and important question. The sugar produced by him was quite dry, and will lose comparatively little by drainage. His estimate of the probable yield of an acre of canes of ordinary growth, such as he experimented upon, is 1466 22 pounds of sugar, and 74.39 gallons of molasses. His acre, however, produced only 1847 gallons of juice, whereas the product, under favorable circumstances, is much larger. Mr. L., after a variety of details, gives his conclusion in these words: "With these conditions secured, it is about as easy to make good sugar from the Chinese cane, as to make a pot of good mush, and much easier than to make a good kettle of apple-butter." The conditions referred to, are these:

First, That it is obvious that there is a culminating point in the development of the sugar in the cane, which is the best time for sugar-making. This point, or season, I consider to be when most, if not all, the seeds are ripe, and after several frosts, say when the temperature falls to 25° or 30° F.

Second, That frost, or even hard freezing, does not injure the juice nor the sugar, but that warm Indian summer weather, after the frost and hard freezing, does injure them very materially, and reduces both quantity and quality.

Third, That if the cane is cut and housed, or shocked in the field when in its most favorable condition, it will probably keep unchanged for a long time.

Fourth, That when the juice is obtained, the process should proceed continuously and with all delay.

Fifth, That the clarification should be as perfect as possible by the time the density reaches 15° Beaume; the syrup having the appearance of good brandy.

Sixth, That although eggs were used in these small experiments, on account of their convenience, bull-dog's blood, if to be had, is equally good, and the milk of lime alone will answer the purpose; in the latter case, however, more constant and prolonged skimming will be required to produce a perfect clarification, which is highly important.

Seventh, That the concentration, or boiling down, after clarification, should be as rapid as possible, without scorching—shallow evaporators being the best.

The "Journal of Commerce" reviews the testimony as to the cultivation of this new plant, of so much importance to our country if good for anything, and says:

"The experiments have indeed resulted in a manner singularly unlike, and a most remarkable disagreement seems to exist among those engaged in them, on several points. That the plants can be grown successfully, as to quantity, in nearly all sections of the Union, has, we think, been demonstrated. That its juice, when properly expressed, is easily converted into sugar, is not susceptible of doubt. That it has made sugar, in a few instances, is pretty well authenticated—that the stalks are some value for fodder for cattle, can scarcely be doubted. There are facts about which there need be no further dispute. But the question which the farmers of the country wish to have settled are—1. Will the cane make good sugar? 2. Can this syrup by a proper process be converted into good sugar? 3. Is the fodder suitable for and readily eaten by cattle and other animals on the farm? and is it a profitable article for export? In view of all the facts, is its cultivation for market or for family use profitable?"

When these questions can be satisfactorily answered, it will be time to determine upon the propriety or impropriety of entering largely into the culture of the Chinese sugar cane in this country.

The bill reported by Senator Douglas, from the Senate committee on Territories, declares that Minnesota shall be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects. It provides that the State shall be entitled to, one Representative in Congress, and such additional Representatives as the population may show they are entitled to, according to the present ratio of representation, leaving the House to ascertain the number when the full returns of the census shall be received—presuming that the residue of the returns will be received by the time the bill shall become a law. So far, as ascertained, the population is 136,461, with seven entire counties and part of another to be heard from.

Mr. Bernhisel, the delegate from the Territory of Utah, seeks a peaceful settlement of the difficulties between the Mormons and the United States Government. He alleges that he had not been for the troops which were sent to that region with hostile intentions, that there would have been presented no "no border front of civil war," that this expected the people there. If a commissioner were appointed to go to Salt Lake City, he believes that an adjustment would be accomplished. It is hardly probable, however, that any adjustment the Mormons would be willing to make, could be more than temporary.

An agent is about to embark for Central America, under the auspices of a new society formed in Washington, for the colonization of Nicaragua. He intends carrying out with him the materials for a printing office, and to commence the publication of a newspaper, as the chronicle of the enterprise. The Philadelphia American, in noticing this fact says:—"It seems, from all we can gather, that the organization is really bent on planting northern settlers in that remote region, and rearing up, by such peaceful means, a free State. A purchase of land has been made, or will be."

The gale which prevailed at New Orleans, on last Friday week, was severely felt at Galveston. With no other warning than a sudden gathering of the clouds and an almost midnight darkness, the wind veered round to the West and in an instant the gale struck the city and shipping, "but end foremost," and the rain fell in sheets and splashes. Several large vessels moored at Lufkins and St. Cyr's wharfs parted their cables and hawsers in a moment and went kicking into the Bay. All, however, managed to get into safe positions without serious damage.

Mr. Secretary Stanton has arrived at Washington, and says that Gen. Calhoun may be expected there in a few days with the Lecompton Constitution. Mr. Stanton represents the election frauds as monstrous, open and admitted. People at Weston, and along the river, admitted to him that young men had gone over in hanks and voted as often as they chose without opposition. The President, it is said, has prepared a message on the Lecompton Constitution, setting forth his views, which will be communicated to Congress.

A mathematical genius in humble life has just been discovered by the French Academie des Sciences. Some time ago, a memoir was sent to that learned body, suggesting a plan for doing away with arithmetic altogether, and adopting geometry as a substitute. It was very favorably reported on, and the author was requested to send his name, address, &c., in order that a reward should be sent him. He did so. He is a journeyman shoemaker, named Rigault, and declares he taught himself mathematics as a relaxation from his professional labors.

The northern people seem, at last, to be arriving at the conclusion that they have too frequently been made the dupes of pretended "fugitive slaves." Hear the New York Tribune, which has so long been eagerly swallowing every ridiculous story set about by fugitive slaves. It says:—"The trade or proof of a fugitive from slavery has proved so lucrative that quite a number of black and copper colored scoundrels are prosecuting it on speculation, some of them (we think) in partnership with white villains who corroborate their lies and share their gains."

Miss Morrow, a pretty deaf mute of sixteen, went shopping in New York, on Thursday last, with her married sister, Mrs. Rouff, and chose to stay outside of a store, on Broadway, while her sister went in to trade. When the latter came out, her sister was missing, and she learned that she had got into a coach with a gentleman and been driven off. The family are in alarm, but it appears that no violence was used, and it is probable the lady will soon appear with "her lawful protector."

In the House of Representatives, on Tuesday, Mr. Anderson, of Missouri, defined his position on the political issues of the day. He had been elected by the political party which sought to extend the term of the naturalization of foreigners, but he now found himself in a condition where he must act with one or the other of the political parties on the sectional questions of the day, and he chose to support the present administration on these questions.

About half-past six o'clock, on the night of the 25th, the moon presented one of the most singular and at the same time beautiful sights witnessed in this quarter of the globe for a long time. In addition to the halo oftentimes seen around that orb, a circle composed of all colors of the rainbow was observable. The circle continued visible for half an hour, when it as well as the halo gradually disappeared. It was what is known as a "lunar rainbow."

A Board of Medical Officers will assemble at Richmond, Virginia, on Thursday, the 1st day of April, 1858, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the examination of Assistant Surgeons for promotion, and of such candidates for appointment to the Medical Staff of the Army, as may be invited to present themselves. Detail for the Board: Surgeon C. A. Finley, R. S. Sterner, S. R. Moore; Assistant Surgeon L. A. Edwards. The junior member will act as Recorder.

A letter from an officer on board the U. S. steamer Powhatan states that ex-President Pierce and Mrs. Pierce had both improved in health, though the latter had suffered considerably from sea sickness. The officers and crew were well, and the ship in fine order. She reached Madeira, on the 27th of December, in 16 days from Norfolk, after a rough passage, and was to have sailed for St. Helena, on the 5th of January.

In the House of Representatives, on Tuesday, Mr. Morris, of Illinois, asked, but did not obtain, leave to offer a joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint three commissioners to proceed to Salt Lake to negotiate with the Mormons for their removal from the United States. Mr. Florence asked, but did not obtain, leave to offer a resolution for the adjournment of Congress on the 7th of June.

According to the official documents, the necessary expenses incurred in the suppression of Indian hostilities in Washington Territory is nearly \$1,500,000; and the total expenses unpaid in Oregon for similar purposes is \$4,500,000; for maintaining the volunteer force in the former Territory, not including the pay of volunteers, \$961,000; and in the latter Territory over \$3,000,000.

Mr. Parton, the biographer of Aaron Burr, is said to be engaged in preparing the life of Gen. Andrew Jackson, for which he obtained much new material while writing the life of the great "conspirator." Mr. Parton entertains the theory that Gen. Jackson owed his elevation to the Presidency to the secret suggestions and aid of Burr. We do not believe a word of it.

The Secretary of the Navy has received a telegraphic despatch from Boston, stating that on the 6th instant the U. S. steamer Shubrick, Capt. Decamp, from Philadelphia for San Francisco, put into the harbor of St. Thomas in distress, and short of coal.

We are indebted to Hon. John Letcher, for copies of public documents.

The bill for the increase of the army, by the addition of two companies to regiments in the service, is discussed in the Senate. A disposition is manifested in favor of the measure, and also of limiting the employment of the additional force to the continuance of the emergency—that is, the Mormon war—which requires it. The remark was made by Mr. Toombs that Congress had not recognized the existence of a war with the Mormons, and it was replied that though there was no war there certainly had occurred a necessity for sending a force to enable the civil authorities of the United States to enforce the laws. During the debate, Mr. Davis, in reply to a question asked that the first section of the bill would add thirty companies to the army or twenty-two hundred and twenty men. If the second section be adopted, of course the number of men will depend upon the number in which the army is posted. It is posted as now, with the thirty companies to be added by the first section, the total increase will be 6,900 privates.

The most remarkable feature in the statements made public by Banks, is the accumulation of coin at all points. At New York the rise since the bank suspension has been from less than seven to over thirty millions of dollars. The Philadelphia, the Boston, the New Orleans and the Pittsburgh banks, all show a large increase. Coin is a very convenient thing to have in a bank in times of a run, but bankers look upon it as the most unproductive item in their accounts, and avail themselves of the first favorable opportunity to render it productive. The supply of gold in bank, in any one of the cities, has not been at the expense of others—all having increased.

The latest advices from engineers of the Honduras railway state that, the surveys had so far advanced as to render it certain that the work would be completed during January. The chief engineer says that he knows no line in the United States, of equal length, presenting fewer difficulties and greater facilities; and that it is "a marvellously good line."

Hon. Alexander Anderson, of New Albany, Indiana, has presented to the American Colonization Society ten thousand acres of land, lying in the State of Georgia. The deed for the same was received at the Colonization Rooms a few days since. The land lies in an improving part of the State, and is supposed to be very valuable.

Mexican grants of land in the Northern District of California, amounting to 2,187,760 acres have thus far been confirmed. The total number of claims settled is 136; average to a claim 14,024 acres. The Mexicans usually granted land in square leagues of 4,358 acres each.

The shipping in New York had their flags at half-mast, as a mark of mourning for the heroic Gen. Havelock. Such an unusual honor to the memory of a British officer unconnected with this country, indicates the high respect his Christian and soldierly qualities have earned for him.

If the Senate bill, allowing the President to reinstate upon the active list of the Navy any of the officers stricken down by the Naval Board, shall become a law, it is understood that Commodore Stewart ("Old Ironsides") will be the first to enjoy its benefits.

The second Reception of the season, on Tuesday evening, attracted a large number of officials, visitors, and citizens to the Executive Mansion, in Washington, where admirable arrangements for preserving order were strictly observed.

Although the weather is said to have been mild in England this winter, it is stated that difficulty was experienced at the last attempt to launch the Leviathan in consequence of the freezing of the water in the pipes of the hydraulic rams.

There is now in successful operation at Augusta, Georgia, a manufactory of Porcelain Ware. The material (kaolin) is found in great abundance in the vicinity of the works; and the style and finish of the ware is highly creditable.

In the New York Legislature, on the 26th, the plurality rule was adopted, and Alford, Democrat, was elected speaker of the assembly. David M. Wilson, American, was elected clerk.

The rats gnawed into a wooden box of matches, in the house of a gentleman of St. Mary's County, Md. The matches being thus fired, they fired the house, but a timely discovery saved it.

Mr. Kemper is pressing before the Legislature a bill "for the re-organization of the Militia of the state, designed to secure its future efficiency, and to facilitate its operations if called into service."

A respectable gentleman in Boston, died on Sunday last, from the effect of inhaling carbonic acid gas and carbonic oxide gas, generated from the combustion of coal gas in a patent gas stove.

A bill is before the New York Legislature to allow rail tracks to be laid and horse cars to be run, on Broadway, Brooklyn, and several other avenues and streets in the eastern part of New York city.

The Jefferson Society of the University of Virginia, has passed resolutions expressive of their disapprobation of the appointment of Hon. H. W. Davis to address the Literary Societies of the University.

The Grand Jury of the District of Columbia, after a long and tedious investigation, have refused to find a bill against General Culbourn, late Clerk of the House of Representatives.

There were 114 divorce cases in two of the district courts of San Francisco, in 1857, of which 94 were instituted by the wives, and 20 by the husbands; 56 were decided for the applicants, and 5 against them.

The Brooklyn Bible Society have found their expenses exceeding their income, the past year. They have declined to appoint a general agent for the ensuing year.

A large catamount was shot, a few days since, in Wills' mountain, within sight of Cumberland, Md. These animals are said to be quite numerous this year in that vicinity.

It was a misprint in the last foreign news stating that the marriage of the Princess Royal had been postponed for three months.

In New York on Monday, the last act of the Burdell tragedy was performed, when the district attorney moved for a *not pros.* in the case of John J. Eckel, indicted for being concerned in the murder of Dr. Burdell. Mr. Graham made a speech in vindication of the innocence of Mr. Eckel, who had suffered greatly, not only in the anguish of his own mind, but his friends and relatives had been deeply afflicted at his supposed complicity in such a heinous crime. The order for a *not pros.* was entered and Eckel discharged from his recognizances. Eckel was in court at the close of the proceedings. He looks paler than he did when last before the public. When the result was announced a demonstration of applause was expected, but it did not come. The court room was crowded to excess.

The number of steamboat arrivals at St. Louis last year was 3,415, with an aggregate tonnage of 964,000 tons. The receipts of produce for the year via railroad, form an epoch in the commercial history of St. Louis. The Alton and Chicago Railroad has opened a large trade to St. Louis; also the North, West and Kentucky, and the Terre Haute, Alton and St. Louis Railroad. St. Louis has within its limits 16 Flour mills, all worked by steam, producing in 1856, 678,000 barrels, and in 1857, 662,000 barrels Flour.

Charles Camp, a young man employed in the office of the "Spirit of the Age," at Raleigh, North Carolina, has been arrested by U. S. Marshal Jones of that District, for sealing letters and money from the Post Office in that city. He was taken before U. S. Commissioner Bushee, and required to enter bonds for his appearance at the next term of the United States Court. He was detected and the money taken from him before he left the Post Office.

The colonization packet ship, Mary Caroline Stevens, Captain Heaps, which left Hampton Roads November 12th, was off Cape St. Ann Shoals, about two days sail from Manrovia, on the 16th December, then only 34 days out. She there fell in with the brig Hannah, from Baltimore, bound to Sierra Leone. All well on board both vessels.

Madame Piéffer, the world renowned traveler, who was in this country not long ago, was at Mauritius in November, having just returned from Madagascar, where she had the fever. She was then meditating a voyage to Australia.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the Statistics of the Trade and Commerce of the City of Baltimore prepared by the Board of Trade for 1857. It is an interesting and valuable commercial document.

The advertisement by the trustees for the sale of the Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, has been withdrawn, the trustees being determined to institute suit at once to close the deal.

Large Bequests by a Clergyman.

The late Rev. Charles Avery, of Pittsburgh, left an estate valued at \$700,000. He bequeathed \$200,000 of stock in the Monongahela Navigation Company, which pays good dividends, as a fund for the support of superannuated clergymen of the Methodist Protestant Church; \$200,000 to the Oberlin Institute in Ohio; \$25,000 to a school for colored children which he founded in Allegheny city, Pa.; \$50,000 to the Insane Asylum in Western Pennsylvania; and \$50,000 each to the Methodist Protestant Churches in Allegheny city and Birmingham, and the second Methodist Protestant Church in Pittsburgh. The total amount bequeathed is \$1,000,000. His relatives were also handsomely provided for. The Chronicle says:

"The remainder of his property, after all expenses and incumbrances are paid, and which must amount to over \$300,000, is to be divided into two parts—one of said parts to be a 'perpetual fund for disseminating the light of the Gospel of Christ and the blessing of civilization among the benighted black and colored races of people inhabiting the continent of Africa,' and the other to be constituted a perpetual fund for promoting the education and elevation of the colored population of the United States of America and the British Provinces of Canada, to be appropriated and applied by his executors."

Mr. Barbee, the Sculptor.

We observe that our most worthy Virginia Sculptor, Mr. Barbee, has, at present, a memorial before the Legislature, asking an appropriation of \$5,000 for his statue of "Young America." It has not been our pleasure to see this work—nor does it require a sight of it to assure us that it is all it should be. We have seen the "Cupid," his first work, and can only repeat what we have already said, that take it all in all, it is a most beautiful specimen of art. "Young America" is the third work of Mr. Barbee, and it is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that he has availed himself of all his former studies in its production.

P. S.—Since the above was in type, we have learned with great joy, that yesterday the Senate passed the bill for the purchase of Mr. Barbee's statue. We trust that the House of Delegates will, with equal promptness and decisive liberality, endorse the action of the Senate and make the bill a law.—Rich. Enq.

Kansas.

The "official vote" in Kansas on the adoption of the Constitution, taken Dec. 21, is certified to be:—

For the Constitution (with slavery).....6,140
For the Constitution (without slavery).....569
The "official vote" on the 4th of January, in accordance with the provisions of an act entitled "An act submitting the Constitution framed at Lecompton under the act of the legislative assembly of Kansas Territory, entitled 'An act to provide for taking a census and election of delegates to a Convention,' passed February 19, A. D. 1857," is certified to be:—

Against the Lecompton Constitution.....10,223
For the Constitution (with slavery).....138
For the Constitution (without slavery).....24

Arrested.

Jesse Crockett, the free negro whose arrest in Petersburg, on suspicion of being implicated in the brutal murder of Aquia on Christmas Eve night we have already noticed, was seen in Falmouth the day after the murder, and various circumstances have come to light which justify his arrest. He left a pair of socks, the feet of which were found to be soaked with blood, &c., &c. Great praise is accorded to the Mayor and Police of Petersburg for their prompt action in the case, and also to our officers, Timberlake and Mendenhall. The warrant was sent on Wednesday and the prisoner was in jail here on Saturday night. He was examined yesterday and sent on for trial.—Frid. News.

Florida Indian War.

The Tampa Peninsula says, six Seminole warriors were seen on the 5th near Fort Cummings, and pursued about four miles, where they entered the swamp and escaped. A party of forty men, with several trailing dogs, was organized for their further pursuit. The same paper records a report of the capture of two Indian parties in the Big Cypress. [This is a tall war.]

The Senate of Virginia.

We propose briefly to notice the most talented and prominent of both parties, laying aside entirely every feeling of political preference. The Senate of Virginia is composed of this time of thirty-six Democrats, and fourteen Americans and Whigs. The Democratic portion comprise two wings, one known as Old Liners, and the other as Calhoun State-rights men. The latter wing have decidedly the advantage in talent, being led on by Floyd, of Wythe (brother to the present Secretary of War), Old, of Powhatan, and Ambler, of Louisa. The old liners have no particular leader, but Denalee of Rockingham, generally appears in defence of the pure unadulterated Democracy, whenever it is assailed.

Col. Benj. Rash Floyd, of Wythe, is a new member, having been elected in November last, to fill a vacancy. This we believe is not his first appearance in political life. As a lawyer, he holds a very high rank at the bar in his section of the country, and is believed by many to be a man of superior intellect to his brother, the ex-Governor. It is very probable that he will be the next Representative from the Abingdon District in Congress. Col. Floyd is a gentleman of fine appearance, his age being about 42 years. Elected to Congress, he will make his mark.

Wm. Old, Jr., is the Senator from the Chesterfield District, and has represented his District in that body since 1841. His first appearance in public life was in 1851, when he was elected by the Democratic party from Powhatan, and Cumberland counties to the House of Delegates. Mr. Old, has never taken a very prominent position until this session. He is a man of first rate judgment, fine intellect; and estimable in all the walks of private life. He fills the seat once occupied by his father, now living, but far advanced in years. Mr. Old, is about 33 years of age, and although there are many older politicians in his party, who covet the honor, still we should not be surprised to see him the next Representative, from the Powhatan District in place of the present member, Mr. Goode. Democrat as he is, we wish him the honor.

Wm. M. Ambler, is from Louisa county, and has been in the Senate since 1849. Mr. Ambler, is very extreme in his feelings, having always been a warm admirer of Mr. Calhoun, and his doctrines. Although a modest man, and seldom speaking, yet, when on the floor, he always commands attention and his opinions receive their full weight. In past times, Mr. A. was a warm Whig, but for many years he has been a Democrat of the Extreme School. Privately, he is highly respected as an estimable and worthy gentleman. If Judge Caskey ever shall decline a re-election to Congress, Mr. Ambler, will be a formidable candidate for his shoes.

George C. Denalee, has long been in the Virginia Legislature, and although not considered by any means a man of brilliancy, still as a party leader, and worker, he cannot be excelled. Mr. Denalee is a great friend of the Governor, and that gentleman may do something for him yet. When Jno. Letcher dies or is killed, Mr. Denalee will very probably be his successor if he lives, but it will be a long time before the event will take place. Denalee's age we should suppose to be about fifty.

Col. Thomas P. August, the new Democratic Senator from Richmond City, is probably the most brilliant man of his age in the Senate. Col. A.'s first appearance in political life was in 1850, when he represented Richmond, in the Lower House, as a Whig.

Since then he has turned Democrat, and if justice is done him, will make a noise in the Virginia Legislature. A gentleman of handsome appearance and elegant address, Tom August, has gathered around him friends from both parties, who in every contest cling to him with devoted tenacity. Although not much over thirty years of age, yet his practical knowledge is very large, and were he to devote his entire energies to that profession, would soon rank with the first lawyers in the State. Col. August, will if he lives, yet represent the Metropolitan District in Congress. We do not know how the Colonel stands politically in his party, but suppose that as he is a recent Whig convert, he of course in joining the Democracy, took sides with the Extremists. One thing, however, he is a warm personal friend of Gov. Wise, and will, we venture to say, battle against him in the Senate.

Hon. Wm. Smith, of Greenbrier, a new member, was once a member of Congress, and for some years, District Attorney for the Western District of the State. A though an able man, yet from his advanced age, he will not be heard frequently in the Chamber.

Mr. Coghill, of Buckingham, who seems to have taken a prominent position, is a new member, and until a short time since was a Whig. He is said to be a man of good promise.

Thos. J. Campbell, of Nottingham, is a young man of good abilities, an excellent debater, and is a great favorite in his district with the Democracy. He wants to go to Congress in place of Goode. Mr. Campbell in a handsome point of view, is not the handsomest man in the United States.

We have thus briefly mentioned the most prominent members of the Democratic party in the Senate, although we doubt not that there are many new members who will appear upon the political stage before the end of the session.

We propose now briefly to notice some of the members composing the minority, and known as Americans or Whigs. Among the first men decidedly in the Virginia Senate, is the honored and distinguished gentleman from the county of Augusta, Alexander A. H. Stuart. It would be useless for us to extol the merits of Mr. S., because he had made his reputation national before we learned the English language. A member of Congress for many years, he is a distinguished Cabinet Officer under Mr. Fillmore. Mr. Stuart is known from one end of the Union to the other, as one of the first public men in the nation. He is a worthy leader of the gallant Little American band in the Senate. Mr. Stuart is in appearance about forty-five years of age, and of commanding address, and elegant manners.

Alexander Rives, of Albemarle, a brother of Hon. W. C. Rives, is a new member of the Senate, but has been a member of the Lower House. Mr. R. is able to cope in debate with the best of the opposition. Before an assembly he is one of the most elegant speakers we ever listened to. In September 1856, it was our fortune to hear this gentleman in the Baltimore Whig Convention, and as a Virginian, we felt proud that we were able to listen to one who ranked equally with the best men who composed that talented and distinguished body. Mr. Rives is without doubt, a statesman of the first order, and would fill a seat in Congress with credit to himself, and honor to his constituency. He is about forty-five years of age.